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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Akiko ITAI et al.

Examiner: Michael Borin

Serial No : 09/700,708 (National Stage of PCT/JP98/02302)

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Art Group: 1631

For : METHOD FOR PREDICTING FUNCTIONS OF PROTEIN

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner of Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed March 5, 2003, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record are requested. Inasmuch as the three-month shortened statutory period was originally set in the Office Action to expire on June 5, 2003, Applicant hereby request an extension of time for three (3) months and are concurrently filing a formal Request for Extension of Time, together with all requisite fees therefor. If for any reason the formal Request for Extension of Time is not associated with the file at the Patent and Trademark Office or the extension fee is deficient, this should be considered to be an express request for any necessary extension of time and authorization for the Commissioner to charge any necessary extension of time fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.